

London Advertiser

Morning Edition, Outside City, 10c per week, \$2.00 per year. By Mail, \$2.00 per year. Non-Editorial, Outside City, 10c per week, \$2.00 per year. Evening Edition, Outside City, 10c per week, \$2.00 per year. By Mail, \$2.00 per year.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS. 3670—Private Branch Exchange, Connecting All Departments. From 10 p.m. to 2:30 a.m., and holidays, call 3670—Business Department. 3671—Editors. 3672—Reporters. 3673—Job Printing.

TORONTO REPRESENTATIVE. F. W. Thompson, 51 Mail Building. J. S. REPRESENTATIVES. New York: Chas. H. Eddy Co., Fifth Ave. Bldg. Chicago: Chas. H. Eddy Co., People's Gas Bldg. Boston: Chas. H. Eddy Co., Old South Bldg. The London Advertiser Company, Limited.

London, Ont., Saturday, July 3.

THE FREEDOM OF THE SEA.

IN BOOKS and speeches, Germans, and apologists for Germany, have been declaring that they want the freedom of the seas. Only a short time ago, to an interviewer in Berlin, the German Foreign Secretary reiterated the claim. "Germany is fighting for the freedom of the seas," he said. But he was unable to say exactly how this freedom was endangered by any other nation. All he could say was that "England always claimed to be the dictator of the seas until our recent naval activities. We are fighting to make England give up her hold, because so long as one country controls the seas they are not free."

The speaker knew perfectly well that he was talking nonsense. In times of peace the sea is free to every nation. England's "control" is but a metaphorical term. She controls only in the sense that she has the largest military and mercantile shipping. She does not prevent any other nation from putting on the water all the ships it can build; she does not interfere with the movements of foreign vessels in any way. That is, in times of peace. In time of war, sea travel is a matter of risks, and England's control in that case is for her own protection, and for the injury of those with whom she may be fighting.

A struggle for the actual control of the seas in time of war is perfectly legitimate. And if Germany can gain that control she is entitled to it, and England and her allies will have to submit to it. But an actual control in time of peace is an impossibility; the seas then are perfectly free to everybody.

If the German Foreign Secretary's declaration that they are fighting to make England give up what she holds in times of peace means anything, it means that they are fighting to destroy England's navy and commerce, which are among the chief elements of her greatness. That is no doubt the case. What supremacy she has on the seas has been won by the energy and has been legitimately. It has never been exercised to the detriment of any other nation, except in peaceful business rivalry. Under that supremacy the seas have been kept free and the weakest nation has had as much right to them as the strongest. If Germany is fighting against that kind of supremacy, it can only be that Germany is fighting for a control of the seas under which they will not be free. And there is no doubt that with many in control other nations would find only as much freedom as they could win by force.

CALLING THE BIG MEN.

LOYD GEORGE is going to plant the flag in the laboratory and study as well as the workshop. Not only has he asked the workmen of the United Kingdom to come to the rescue in the hour of peril, but he has invited the men of science, the inventors, chemists, etc., to throw their energies and knowledge into channels that will help in the prosecution of the war. So far the enemy has had the advantage in this respect, as this section of the Germanic community, like every other section, appears to have been organized to do its "bit."

In the United Kingdom are thousands whose services could be secured and used to help solve a number of problems and thus greatly help the British and their allies. One of the most important of these is the finding of some way of combating the Zeppelins more effectively than is the case at present. In the British aerial corps are many Warnefords, but chance plays too big a part, such feats as his. What is required is development of the aeroplane or the dirigible that can be depended upon to make definite and successful warfare on the Kaiser's monsters, and end the exasperating raids. To grapple with this problem, Lloyd George is mobilizing the services of all those up in the science of aeronautics, and has called in Orville Wright, the American inventor of the flying machine. Other specific needs are the necessity of securing some engine of warfare that will lessen the activities of the submarine, and the finding of an antidote to the asphyxiating gases of the Germans. The United Kingdom is well equipped with men competent to face these tasks. Once they are organized by Lloyd George we may expect them to give a service almost as vital, if not so spectacular, as that of the men in the trenches.

A HELPFUL SUGGESTION.

UNABLE to defend the laxity of war contracts, all the Conservative papers can do is to condemn the Liberals for "muckraking" in their efforts to bring about a better condition of affairs. So we have one of them comparing the work of Liberals here with that of the papers in England which found fault with what they considered the laxity of the British Government in the preparation of munitions, and it brings up the boot question again, and says these "muckrakers" would have destroyed the

Government, and had not one helpful suggestion to offer.

We thought they made a very good suggestion. They pointed out that the boots were bad, and suggested that they should be improved. And the Government acted on the suggestion, had fresh specifications prepared, and was supposed to be supplying the men with a better article. That was surely helpful—at least to the soldiers, who needed the help badly.

And so with the other charges of graft. Denial at first, they were admitted afterwards; the offenders are being prosecuted, and new methods of purchasing material have been adopted. The Liberals have helped the country, and if the Government is injured in the process, so much the worse for the Government. If the idea has gone abroad that Canada was "rotten with graft and corruption," the fault lies with Conservatives who were glibly, and with Conservative Governments which were either blind or corrupt.

We hope there has been no such unimpeachable view of Canada, and Canadians abroad. We do not suppose there has been. We have had some nasty occurrences, which do not reflect any credit upon us. But we should hope that outsiders will not attribute to the whole of Canada the faults of a few. At all events, the Liberals did their duty, and calling them "muckrakers" does not detract from the credit due them. Had they not stirred up inquiry, matters would have gone on as they were, and graft and corruption would only have increased.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

One great and lasting lesson that this war will teach is the importance of thrift nationally and individually.

The Armenian being a mule ship, it is to be expected that there will be a strong "kick" made over her sinking.

France officially denies that she is using poisonous American-made shells against the Germans. Another Berlin lie nailed.

It must enrage Becker when he sees Harry Thaw close to liberty through the alienist jail and wonders how he came to overlook it.

Hudson Maxim, the machine-gun maker, denies that he ever said war was a good thing. However, war is a good thing for his business.

The Allies are sending to America for lumber with which to shore the trenches. They already have some excellent timber there in the British "Hearst of Oak."

One of the things Washington has insisted upon is that the neutral ships be inspected by the German submarines. This was not done in the case of the Armenian, which gives fair ground for a protest even if the crew had forfeited their neutral rights.

The Italians are performing brilliantly amongst the crags of the Alps. Steady nerves and perfect physique are required for this kind of warfare. Their success along the mountain tops and passes speaks volumes for the training and preparedness of Italy's armies.

IT WAS ALL THERE.

[Exchange.]

Karl had been quietly drawing on his slate for some time when suddenly his father heard a great scratching. Finally the youngster brought the slate over for inspection and his father asked what the picture was. Karl said:

"Why, it's a cow and some bushes." "But I don't see the cow," said his father.

"Well, she's behind the bushes," was Karl's answer.

COMPENSATION.

[Exchange.]

"Some conscienceless rascal, while I was lunching at the club, walked away with my umbrella." "To bad. Where did you get the umbrella you are carrying now?"

"Why, when I found mine was gone I picked up the best looking one that was left in the rack."

THE EVENING FAD.

[Detroit Free Press.]

Time was that when my day was done the evening was a time for rest. I puffed my pipe and watched the sun in glory sinking in the west.

I knew contentment that was real. Not longer than two years ago, but now when finished dinner now She drags me to a picture show.

No more the splendid hour of peace. That once I knew I now possess. When all my daily struggles cease. There is no balm of happiness. Refreshing, cool, to soothe my brow. No restful hour that I may know. For when we've finished dinner now She drags me to a picture show.

Each evening I must sit and see. The widow's little baby die; Must gaze on acts of villainy; The soldiers put to death a spy. A dam destroyed by dynamite. Which brings from her a frightened "Oh!"

And every other dreadful sight. That constitute a picture show. I've gazed on Farum's curly locks. I've seen the self-same pile of rocks. By every mountain title called. I've seen him lick a dozen men. In combat with a single blow. But after supper, once again She drags me to a picture show.

Or for the nights that once I knew. Before this picture craze began. When once his daily tasks were through. There was no place to take a man. These I could sit in real delight. And watch the people come and go. But now—I'll bet again tonight She'll drag me to a picture show.

BOSTON STYLE.

[Exchange.]

"And now, madam, what about pen-cilling the brows?" "I think," said Mrs. L. R. N. Steel, "I'd like one of these highbrow effects that I read so much about in the papers."

QUITE SO.

[Exchange.]

The motorbus stopped and the conductor looked earnestly up the steps but no one descended, and at last he stalked up impatiently.

"Ere, you," he said to a man on top, "don't you want Westminster Abbey?"

"Yes," was the reply.

"Well," retorted the conductor, "come down for it, I can't bring it on the bus for you."

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

THE Teutons continue their successful advance against the Russians. They are now well on Poland, sweeping northward towards Warsaw. After the fall of Lemberg the Germans have invaded Russian territory in two directions, east and north. The latter move was evidently made with the object of saving Warsaw. The city of Ivangorod, too, is now threatened by the German drive. The fighting is of the heaviest, and although in retreat the grand duke is punishing his pursuers heavily thirty miles to the south of Ivangorod. In Eastern Galicia the Russian army is engaged mainly with the Austrians. The Russians appear to be doing better at this point, repulsing the enemy's attacks with heavy losses. As usual, both sides claim large captures of men and guns.

THE British and Belgians had very little to do the past week, but the French have once more scored by stopping a heavy German drive in the vicinity of Verdun, one of the French fortresses which bar the way to Paris. It is said that at least 75,000 Germans were engaged in this movement which, as usual, was preceded by a tremendous shelling and the spreading of poisonous gases. The French were at first thrown back, losing two lines of trenches, but later rallied and recovered the lost ground as well as some of the enemy's defences. In the region north of Arras, where for weeks has been the main French attack, there has been a number of artillery duels. In the Agonne district and the hills of the Vosges, the French have made some gains.

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FROM the Dardanelles come more good news. Kritiria, according to an Athens dispatch, has been taken by the Allies. This is one of the most formidable of the Turkish strongholds, and is on the western side of the Gallipoli Peninsula and about five miles from the point where the Allies made their landing. Its capture would be a big move towards the subjugation of the other fortresses which are barring the way to the Sultan's capital.

In the Caucasus this week Premier Asquith stated that the British naval and military losses at the Dardanelles up to May 23 totalled 38,835 officers and men. The total casualties numbered 24,676, of which 1,134 were officers and the missing amounted to 6,587, the officers numbering 32.

A NEW turn to the war during the last few days has been the over-running of Albania by the Serb and Montenegrin forces. The latter have overruning Albania taken Scutari and the former hold Durazzo, the important Albanian port on the Adriatic.

HEAVY losses and casualties were reported as the result of a naval battle in the Baltic, between the German and Russian fleets. According to reports from Petrograd, the German fleet, consisting of the Geroedo boat and a cruiser sunk and two battalions damaged, while a torpedo layer, the Albatross, was driven ashore. The cruiser is said to be of the Madagascari class, and was the result of the battle. She was launched in 1902 and had a crew of 650. The other battleship was of about the same strength. The battle is believed to be the result of an attempt of the Germans to land troops at some point on the coast of Courland.

G. Hamilton in charge of the operations at the Dardanelles, reports that on June 26th a British submarine sank a Turkish transport. The Turkish transport, the Marmora, was filled with troops. Hamilton's report also tells of a heavy engagement on June 29th, in which the Turks were repulsed.

"Indeed, then, I'm not, Denny," says Nelly; "only you know well that they were thrushes."

"Have reason with you now, Nelly! Sure you know as well as I do that they were blackbirds."

"Have reason yourself," says Nelly, "and say like a man that they were thrushes."

"Blackbirds!" says Denny. "Thrushes!" says Nelly.

Denny, he began to whistle, and Nelly, she began to hum; and after that a word from man to the other of them didn't cross their lips for three months, till their friends came and brought them together.

That fared well, and it didn't fare ill, as they say in the old stories; and the year wore on, and Christmas Eve came round once more. And as Denny and Nelly thanked God, and sat down to a lovely supper that Nelly had cooked for the pair of them, Nelly she broke into a laugh, and said:

"Denny, do you mind the omadhauns we made of ourselves last Christmas Eve and the war afore it?"

"Oh, don't I, Nelly!" says Denny, says he.

"Complete omadhauns," says Nelly. "The laugh of the war," an' no wonder," says Denny.

"Sometimes I can hardly believe it of us," says Nelly.

"Foolish children couldn't act so," says Denny.

"Children'd have more sense," says Nelly.

"You might call them birds thrushes from now till morning," says Denny, "and I'd only smile at it, Nelly."

"Thanky, Denny," says Nelly; "but why should you smile, when they were thrushes?"

"Nelly, Nelly, Nelly!" says Denny. "Sure you know I don't want to dispute it with you, but I tell you the birds were blackbirds."

"I'm not disputin' it meself, either," says Nelly, says she; "but you shouldn't contradict the knowin' truth—the birds were thrushes."

"Who's contradicotin' the known truth?" says Denny. "They were blackbirds," says Nelly.

"Thrushes, they were," says Nelly; "and right well ye know it, only the contrariness is riz in ye."

"The mornin' is holy Christmas Day, so tell the truth and shame the devil, Nelly. Say they were blackbirds and have done with it!"

"The mornin' is holy Christmas Day," says Nelly, "so tell the truth, yourself. Say they were thrushes!"

"For heaven's sake, don't keep contentionin' about two scrawny blackbirds, Nelly!"

"It's you that is contentionin', Denny; the birds were thrushes!"

"You'll brack my temper, out an' out. I say they were thrushes!"

"Blackbirds!"

"Thrushes!"

Denny turned round, then, and drew out his pipe and tobacco and began whistlin', leavin' his supper untasted. And Nelly, turnin' her back to it, too, took up a stool and had been tuckin' and began hummin' very faintly.

That minute the latch was lifted, and the pair of us could make such idiots of ourselves!"

"About nothing," says Nelly.

"About nothing," says Denny. "A miserable pair of blackbirds—bad luck to them!"

"Aye, thrushes—bad luck to them!" says Nelly.

"Nelly, dear," says Denny, lookin' at her reproachfully, "sure you aren't goin' to begin it all over again, for the sake of them weeny blackbirds?"

greeting steadily at all points. Two weeks ago they took Montefiore and Trieste, and one army is somewhere between these two cities. Still another is menacing the city of Gorizia, which is just across the frontier and an important railway junction. The Italians have got across the River Isonzo at several places, despite sharp resistance by the Austrians. In the Carnio Alps they are moving slowly into Austrian territory, and the army operating in the west, heading for Trent, is hammering away at the fortresses and defences that protect the roads to that city.

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ler, with a string of birds over his shoulder. Denny and Nelly jumped to their feet and ran for Johnny, who looked bewildered at them.

"Johnny," says Nelly, "it's delighted I am that you come."

"It's delighted meself," says Johnny, says he. "That you've come at this minute."

"For," says Nelly, says she, "I want you to show me o' mine the fool he's been makin' of himself."

"Johnny, agin'," says Denny, "you've been in the nick o' time to let this come in the nick o' time to let this woman see the omadhauns she is."

"In the name o' patience," says Johnny, says he, "what's this all about, one to the other, what's this all about, anyhow?"

"'Tis about the two little thrushes we bought from your sister two years," says Nelly. "You'll hardly credit it, but this man o' mine actually argues they were blackbirds."

"Ha, ha, ha!" says Denny, says he. "Johnny, if ye hadn't heard it with your own ears, ye wouldn't take it on St. Peter's word that that woman has been for two years maintainin' them to be blackbirds ye sold her—were thrushes. Tell her now they were blackbirds, and prove her a fool to her face."

"Johnny," says Nelly, "tell this man o' mine that they were what they were—thrushes—and shame him outright."

"Musha, Nelly and Denny," says Johnny, says he, "it's mortal sorry I am, if the pair of ye have been fightin' about that for over two years. 'Tis mortal sorry for the pair of ye, for the birds I sold ye were starlin'!"

A GOOD REMOVER.

[Exchange.]

A street preacher in a Scottish town called a passing policeman and complained of being annoyed by a certain portion of his audience. He asked to have the objectionable persons removed.

"Well, ye see," said the officer thoughtfully, "it was difficult for me to spot them. But I'll tell ye what I'd do if I were you."

"What?" eagerly asked the preacher. "Just gang round 'wi' the hat!"

AMERICAN PRESS ON THE WAR.

[New York Tribune.]

If the Nebraska was torpedoed by a German submarine, Ambassador Gerard should be recalled, Count Von Bernstorff should be recalled, and the diplomatic relations between Germany and the United States should cease. Such an outrage as the torpedoing of the Nebraska would be accepted as the real answer of Germany to the American note, the declaration of purposes which makes further discussion impossible.

FINANCING THE WAR.

[Cincinnati Enquirer.]

The financing of this war is straining every country engaged in it. The financing of the paper issued in the various forms has begun to tell upon the skill and practice of the best financial experts of Europe. Its continuance, even for a few months, is sure to call for still greater sacrifices of blood and treasure, and, as Paul Kruger remarked about a struggle that was being waged in South Africa, "the price paid will stagger humanity."

THE WAR IN THE AIR.

[Pittsburgh Dispatch.]

The raids of the Zeppelins have failed of their vital accomplishment. If their work has been mainly at night, it

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Overweight is a very undesirable condition especially in the present day, when slender figures are so fashionable, and the tendency of some people to put on an excessive amount of fat.

If your weight is more than it should be, don't try to starve yourself, eat all you want, but go to your druggist and get all of orline in capsule form and take one with each meal.

Orline increases the oxygen-carrying power of the blood and dissolves the fatty tissue, in many cases at nearly the rate of one pound per day. Be sure to get oil of orline in capsule form. It is sold only in original sealed packages. Any good druggist has it, or a large size box will be sent on receipt of \$1.00. Address D. J. Little Drug Company, Box 1240, Montreal, Canada—Advt.